

Wolf Conservation and Management 2014 Annual Report



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Dave Ware | Wolf Policy Lead

Summary

- Wolf Plan Recovery Objectives
- Population Monitoring
- Conflict Management
- Outreach
- Research
- Budget
- Legislation
- 2015 Strategies

Wolf Plan Goals

- Restore self-sustaining wolf populations
- Manage wolf-livestock conflicts
- Maintain healthy prey base
- Develop public understanding and promote coexistence

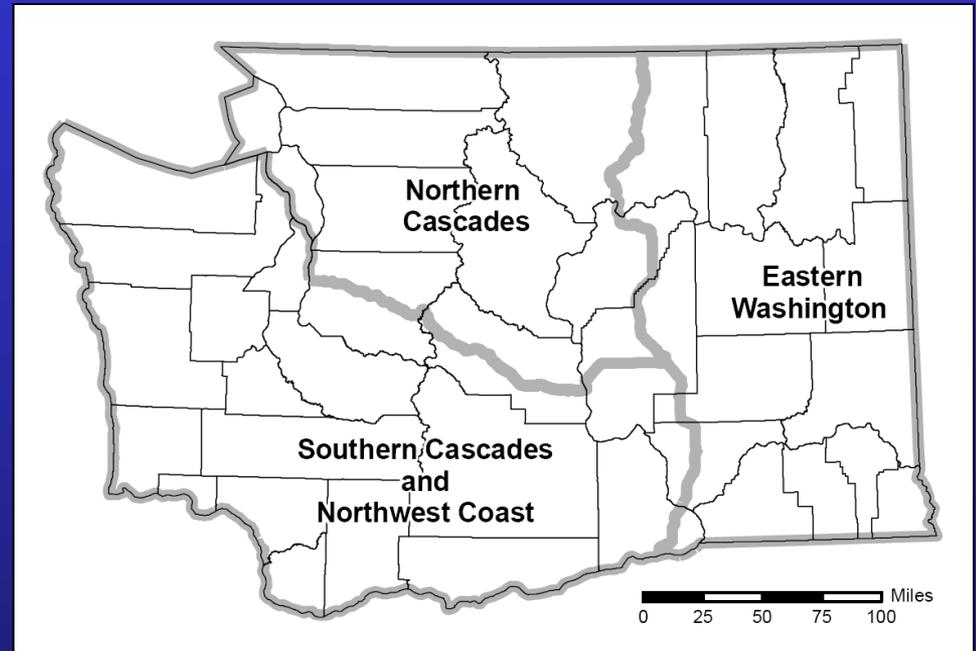
Definitions



- **Pack:** 2 or more wolves traveling together
- **Successful Breeding Pair:** male and female raising 2 or more pups until Dec 31

Recovery Objectives

- Delist at 15 successful breeding pair for 3 consecutive years
- Or 18 successful breeding pair for 1 year
- Distributed among 3 recovery regions



Capture and Monitoring



Reports From the Public

- 1-877-933-9847
- 911
- Online
- Pamphlets
- Outreach printed materials

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CONSERVATION

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Home About WDFW Conservation Fishing Hunting Wildlife Viewing Licensing & Permits Living with Wildlife

Gray Wolf Management
Frequently Asked Questions
Washington Wolf Packs
Report a Wolf Sighting
Report Depredation Incidents
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Wolf Information
Gray Wolf News
Photo and Video Gallery
Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Main Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
Get Directions
Mailing Address
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Phil Anderson
Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

How to report suspected livestock depredation incidents

What should I do if I suspect a wolf kill?

Upon discovering injured or dead livestock that you believe has been attacked by a wolf, immediately report the situation using WDFW's toll-free **Reporting Hotline at 1-877-933-9847**. WDFW or federal investigating authorities will respond as soon as possible.

The actions that you take after locating an injured or dead livestock can have a tremendous impact on the results of the investigation that will follow. Your cooperation is needed at the site to secure it from disturbance. Treat the area as though it were a crime scene. This includes taking the following steps:

- Avoid walking
- Do not touch
- Keep all people away
- Place a tarp over the carcass
- Take photos

Dial 911 to report an emergency
Carnivore Depredation on Livestock
1-877-933-9847

More information on wolf-livestock conflicts

Washington's 2014 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations

Effective April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

Special Permit Application Deadlines
May 22, 2014

Online Reporting

(2014 reports)

 **WDFW Wolf Observation Reporting Form**

Observer Contact Information
* Indicates required fields

Mr. Ms. Mrs.
* First Name: _____ * Last Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

* Phone: _____ (XXX) XXX-XXXX

* E-mail Address: _____

Are you the Observer or the Reporter?
 Observer Reporter

Were Other Observers Present? No Yes

If yes, please provide names and contact information for each observer. Text is limited to 250 characters.

Observation Details
* Indicates required fields

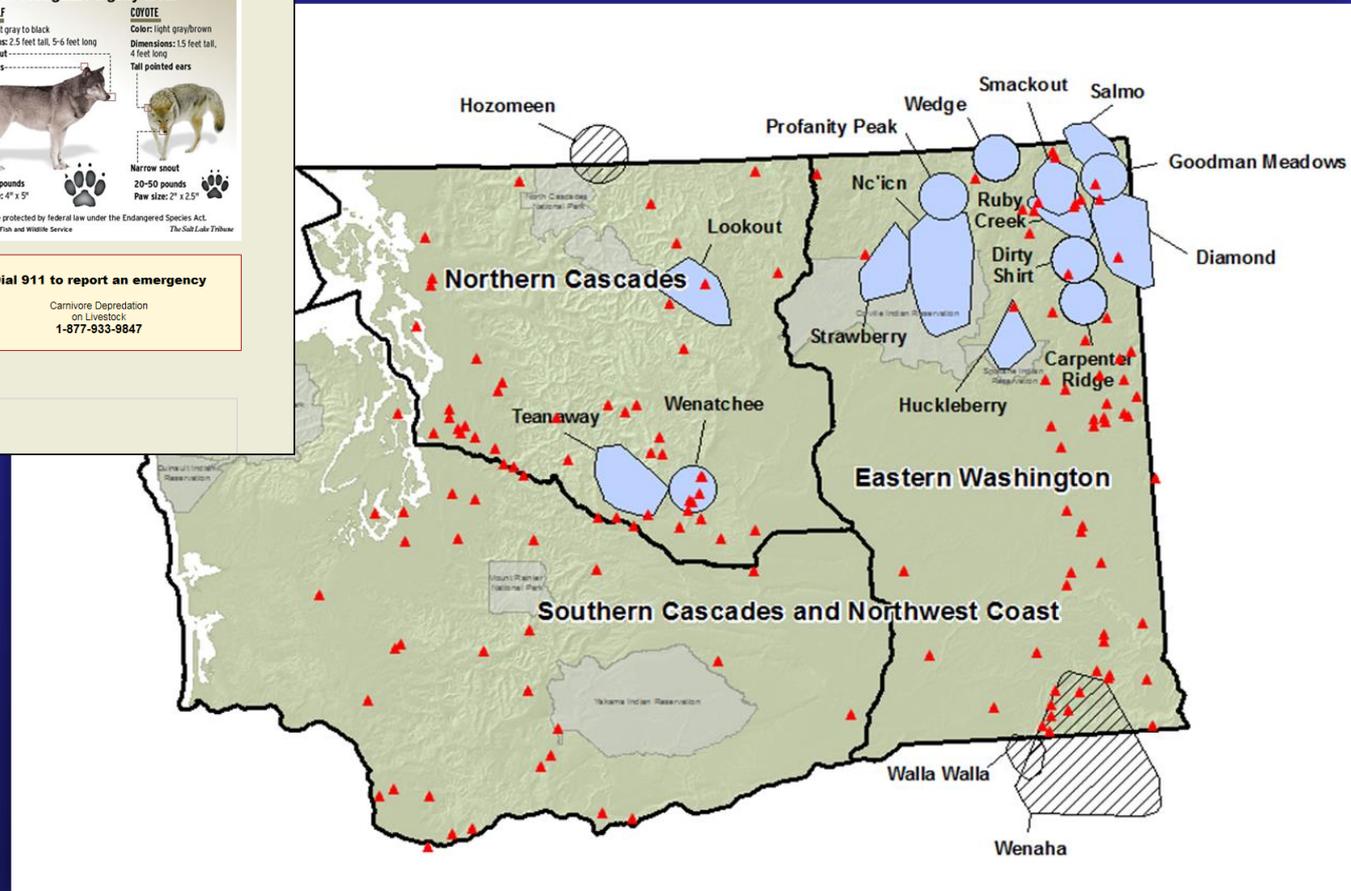
How to recognize a gray wolf

<p>GRAY WOLF</p> <p>Color: light gray to black</p> <p>Dimensions: 2.5 feet tall, 5-6 feet long</p> <p>Broad snout</p> <p>Round ears</p>	<p>COYOTE</p> <p>Color: light gray/brown</p> <p>Dimensions: 1.5 feet tall, 4 feet long</p> <p>Narrow snout</p> <p>Tall pointed ears</p>
	
80-120 pounds Paw size: 4" x 5"	20-50 pounds Paw size: 2" x 2.5"

Wolves are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act. Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Sub-Lake Tribune.

Dial 911 to report an emergency

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock
1-877-933-9847



Follow-up Verification



Bushnell

12-10-2013 13:07:28





Setting wolf leg-hold trap, WDFW.



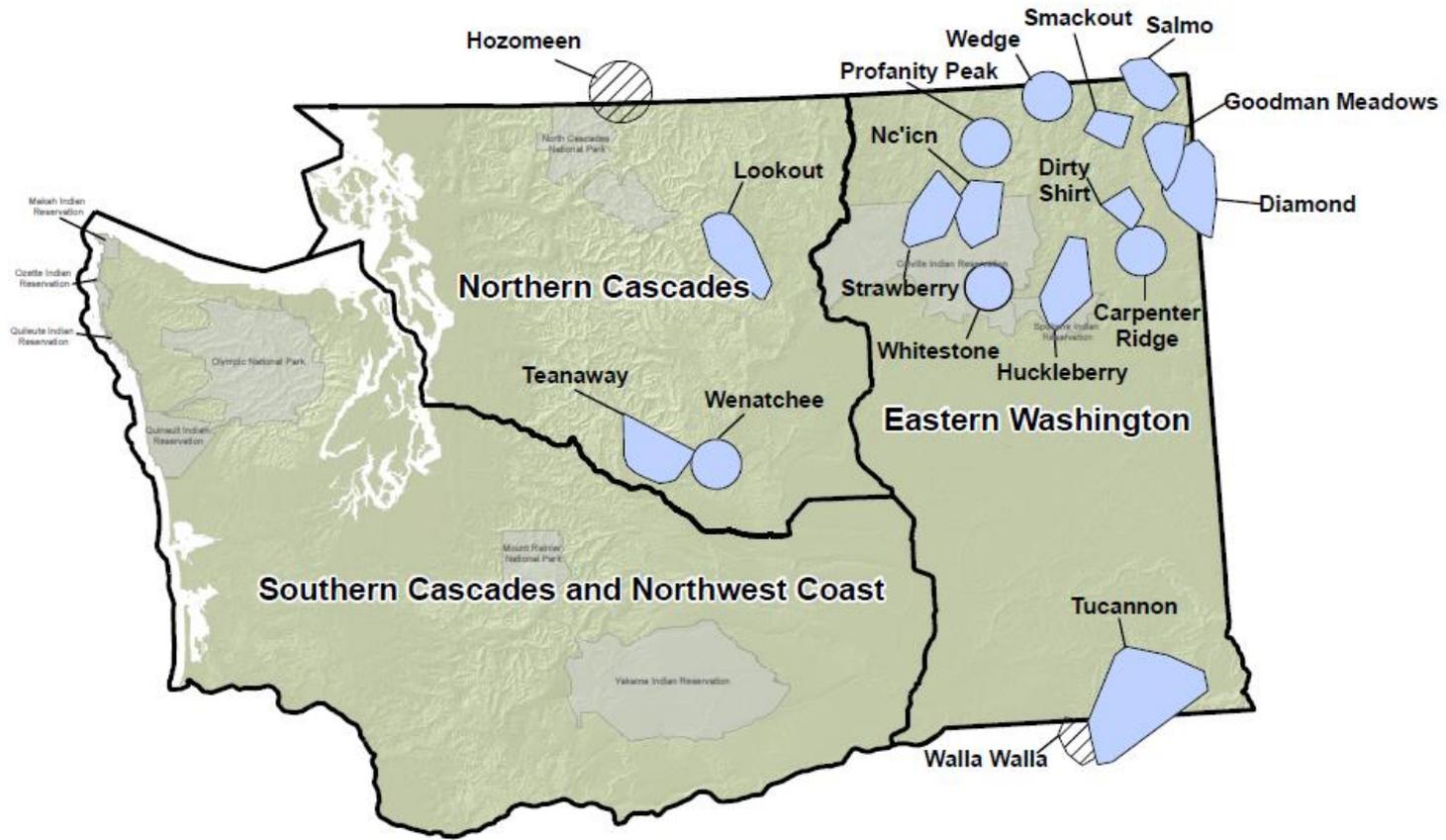
Aerial wolf capture using a net gun in the Diamond pack, Feb 2013.



Washington Wolf Population Summary

Year	Min count	Known No.		Growth Rate	Known Wolf Mortality
		Packs	SBP		
2008	10	1	1	--	0
2009	12	2	2	20%	0
2010	19	3	1	58%	2
2011	35	7	5	84%	0
2012	51	9	5	46%	9
2013	52	13	5	2%	5
2014	68	16	5	31%	10
Ave				38%	

Wolf Packs as of December 2014



Legend

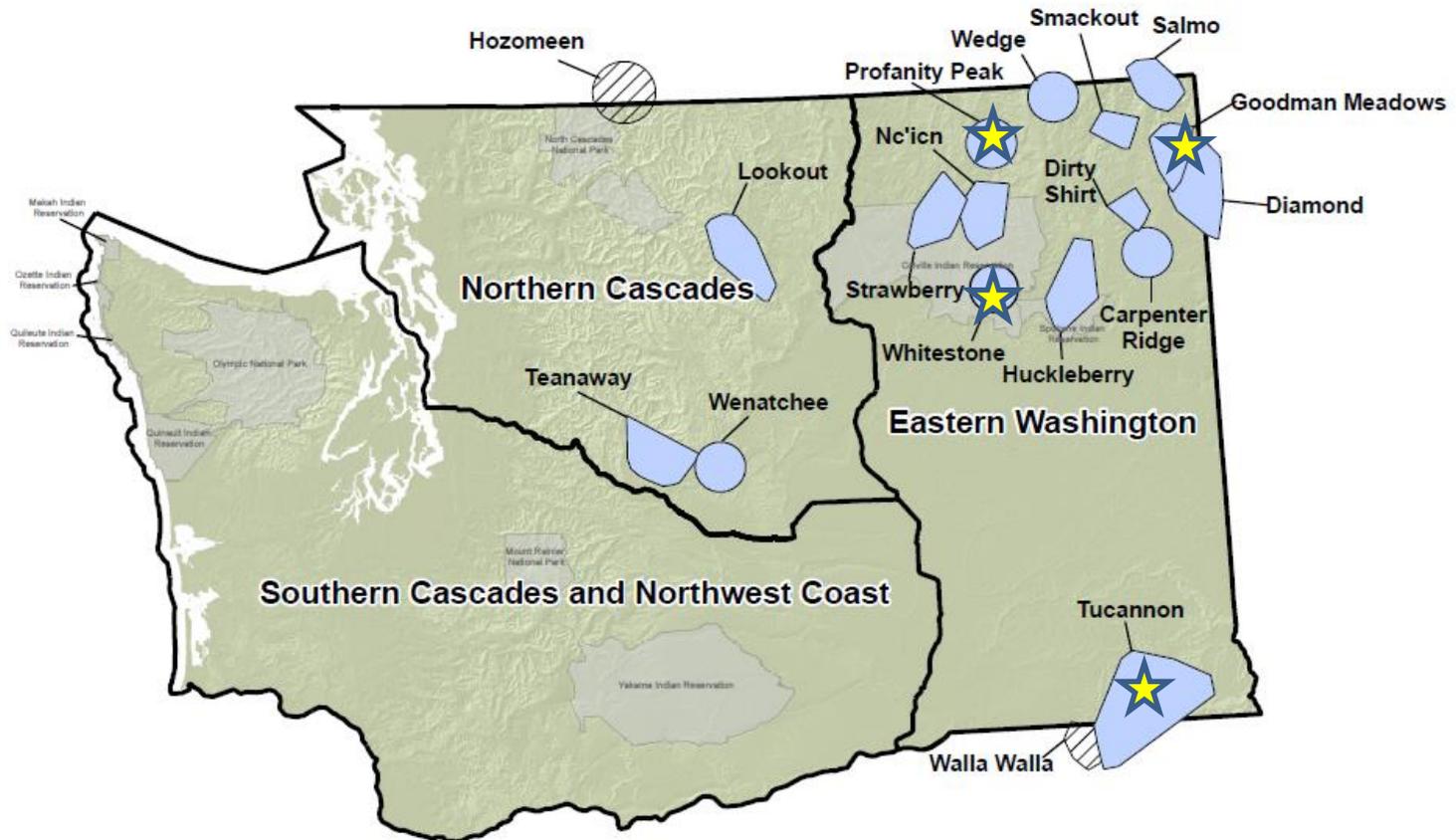
-  Confirmed pack*
-  Border pack that dens outside Washington
-  Wolf Recovery Region

* Packs represented by polygons are packs that had collared wolves and the polygon is the estimated pack range. Packs represented by circles are packs that did not have collared wolves and the circle is a generic representation of the pack location.

** Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.

Date: 3/5/2015

Wolf Packs as of December 2014



Legend

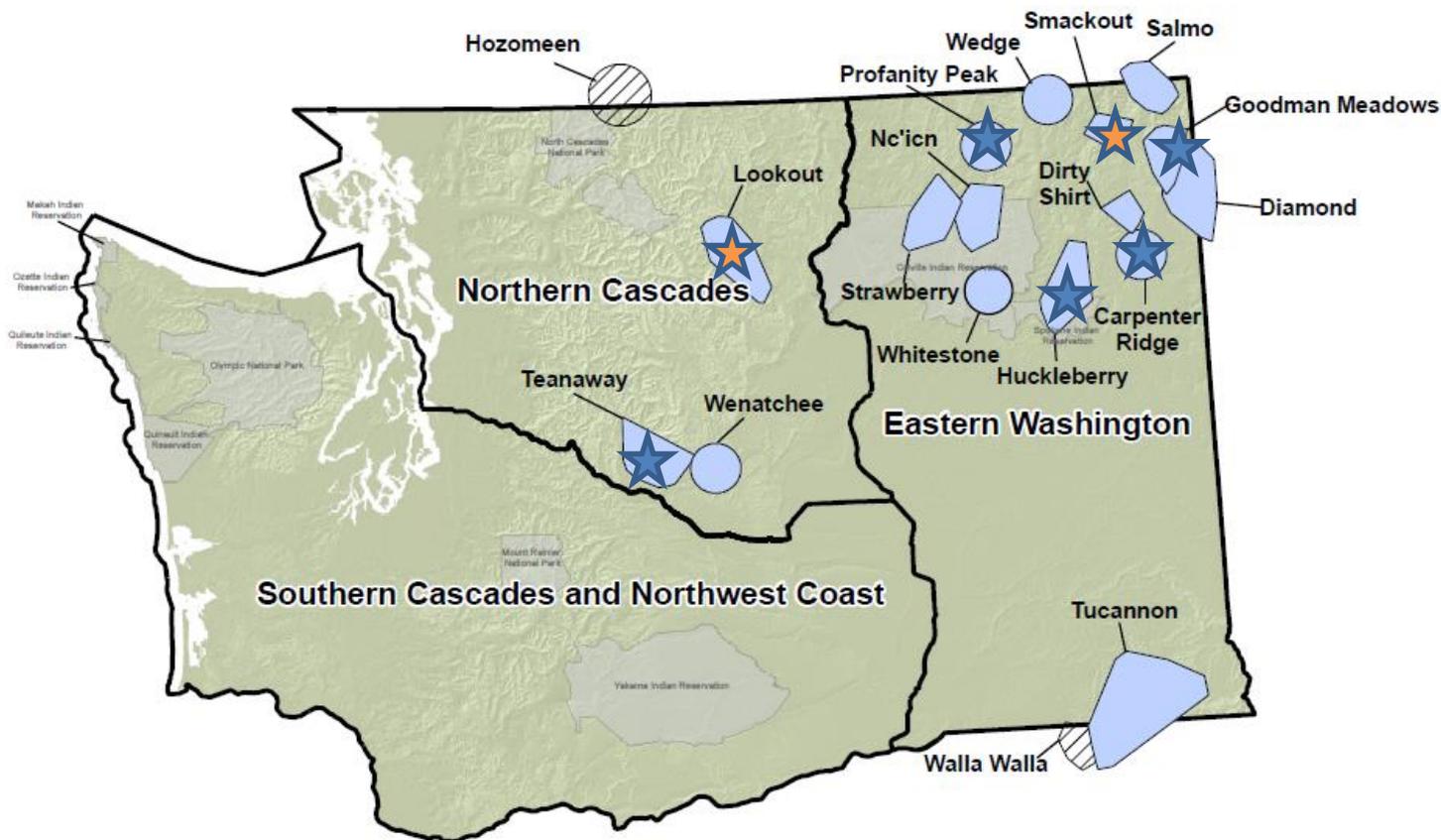
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Date: 3/5/2015

Recovery Region	Confirmed Pack	Successful Breeding Pairs	Min Count	Mortality	Known Dispersal	Depredations
Eastern Washington	Carpenter Ridge	Yes	4	0	0	0
	Diamond	No	2	0	1	0
	Dirty Shirt	No	3	0	0	0
	Goodman Meadows	Yes	6	0	0	0
	Huckleberry	Yes	6	2	0	33
	Nc'icn (CCT)	No	4	0	2	0
	Profanity Peak	Yes	6	1	0	4
	Ruby Creek	No	-	1	0	0
	Salmo	No	3	0	0	0
	Smackout	No	5	1	0	0
	Strawberry (CCT)	No	3	0	0	0
	Tucannon	No	2	0	0	0
	Wedge	No	2	0	0	0
	Whitestone (CCT)	No	2	0	0	0
	Misc/Loners		8	2	0	2
Northern Cascades	Lookout	No	4	1	1	1
	Teaway	Yes	5	1	1	0
	Wenatchee	No	2	0	0	0
	Misc/Loners		1	1	0	0
S Cascades & NW Coast	None	None	0	0	0	0
	Statewide	5	68	10	5	40

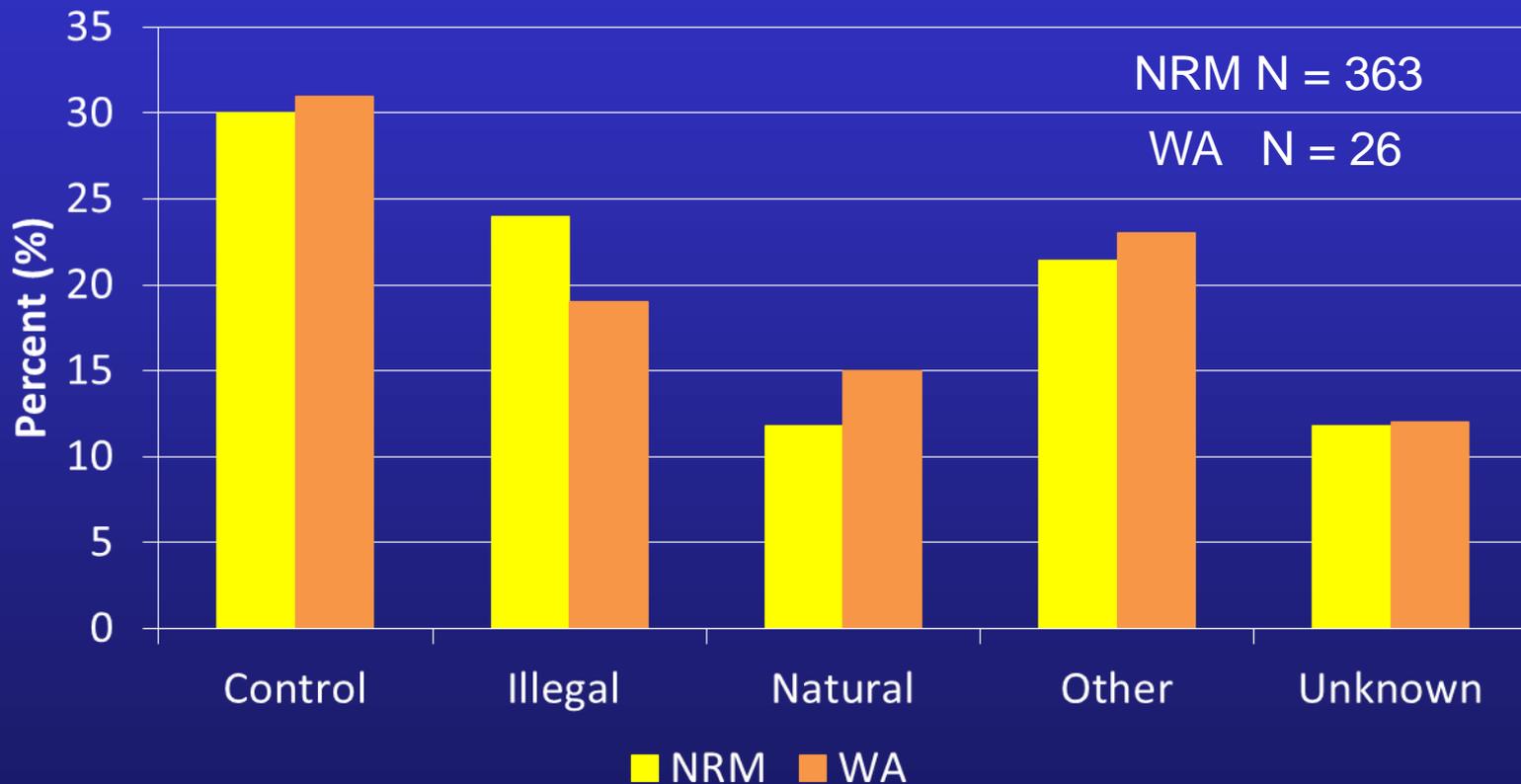
Known Wolf Mortality

Washington

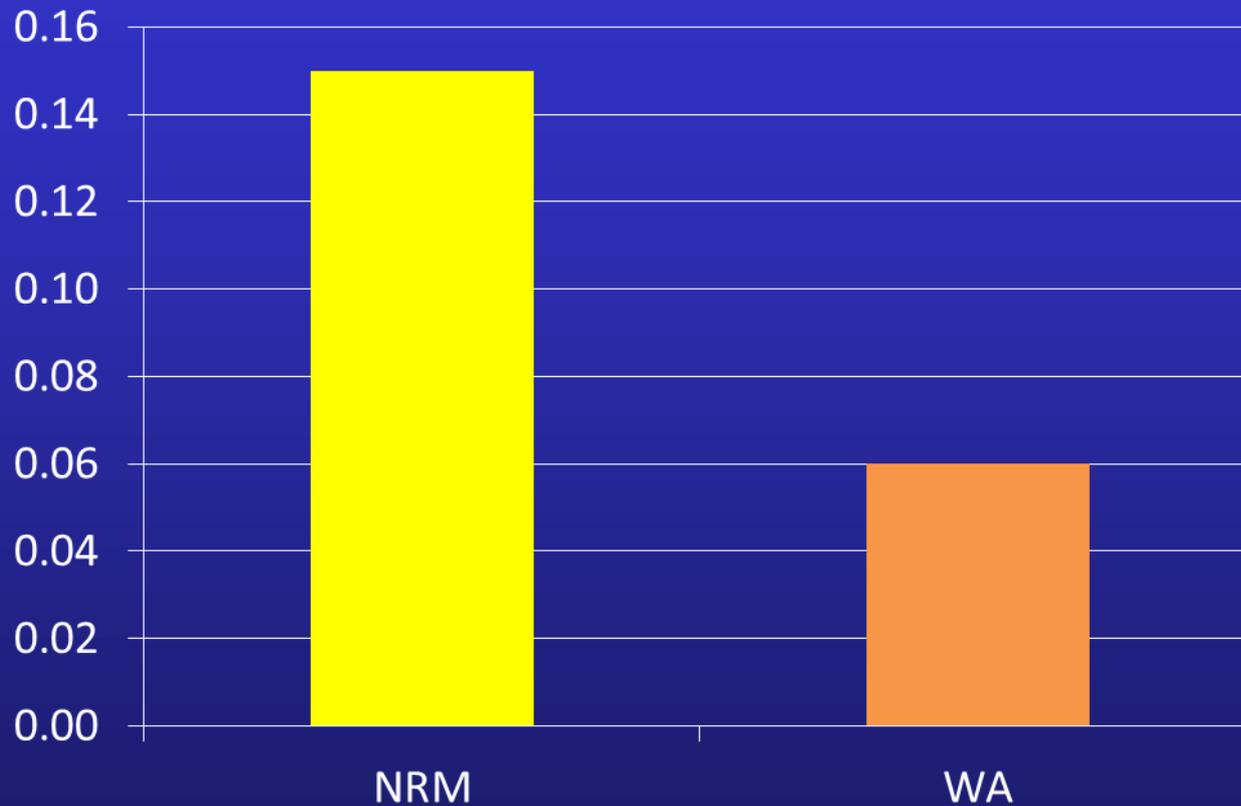
Year	Natural	Control	Illegal	Other human	Harvest	Unkn	Total
2008							0
2009							0
2010			2				2
2011							0
2012		7		1		1	9
2013	1			3	1		5
2014	3	1	3	1		2	10
TOTAL	4	8	5	5	1	3	26

Wolf Mortality Factors

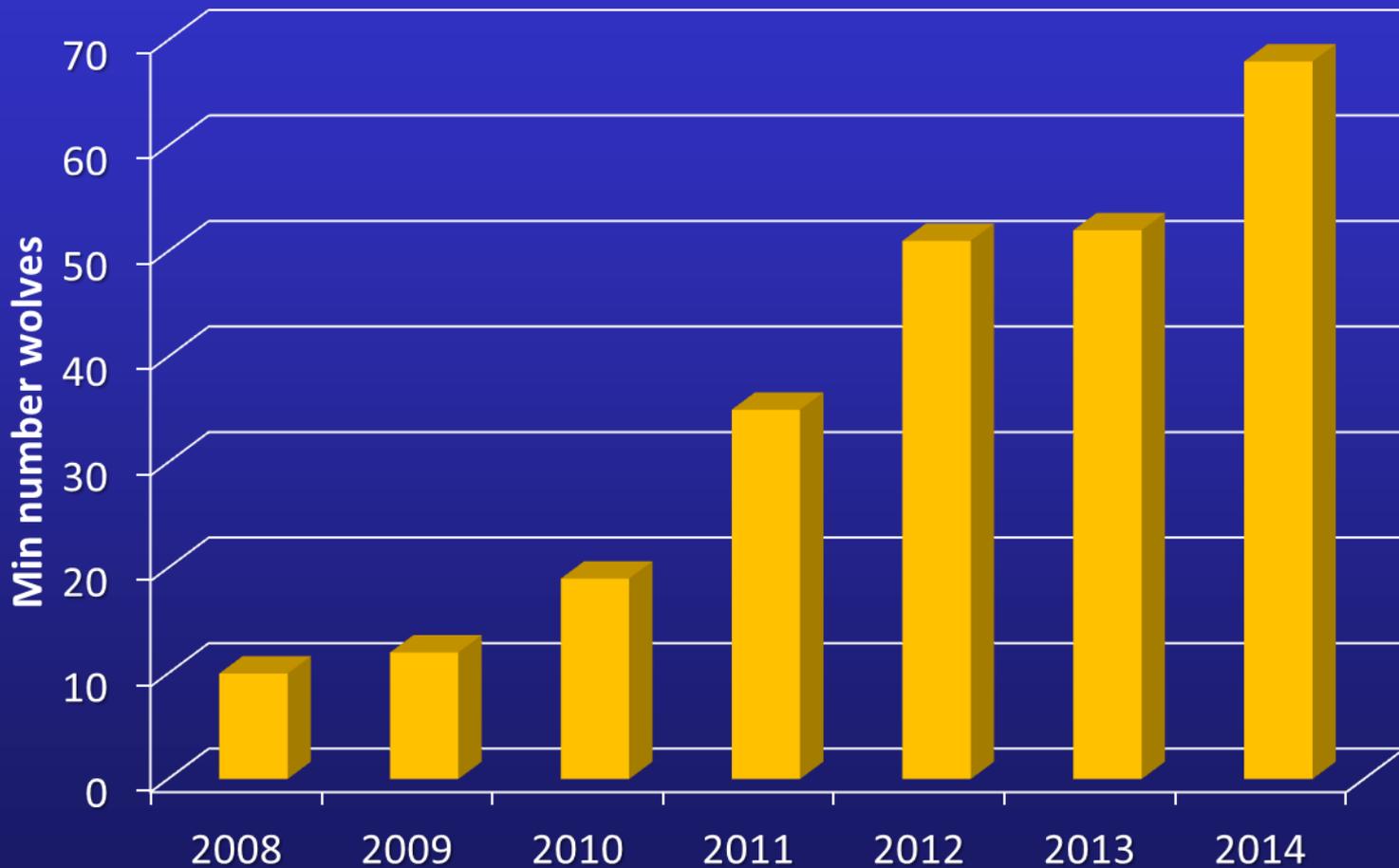
NRM compared to WA



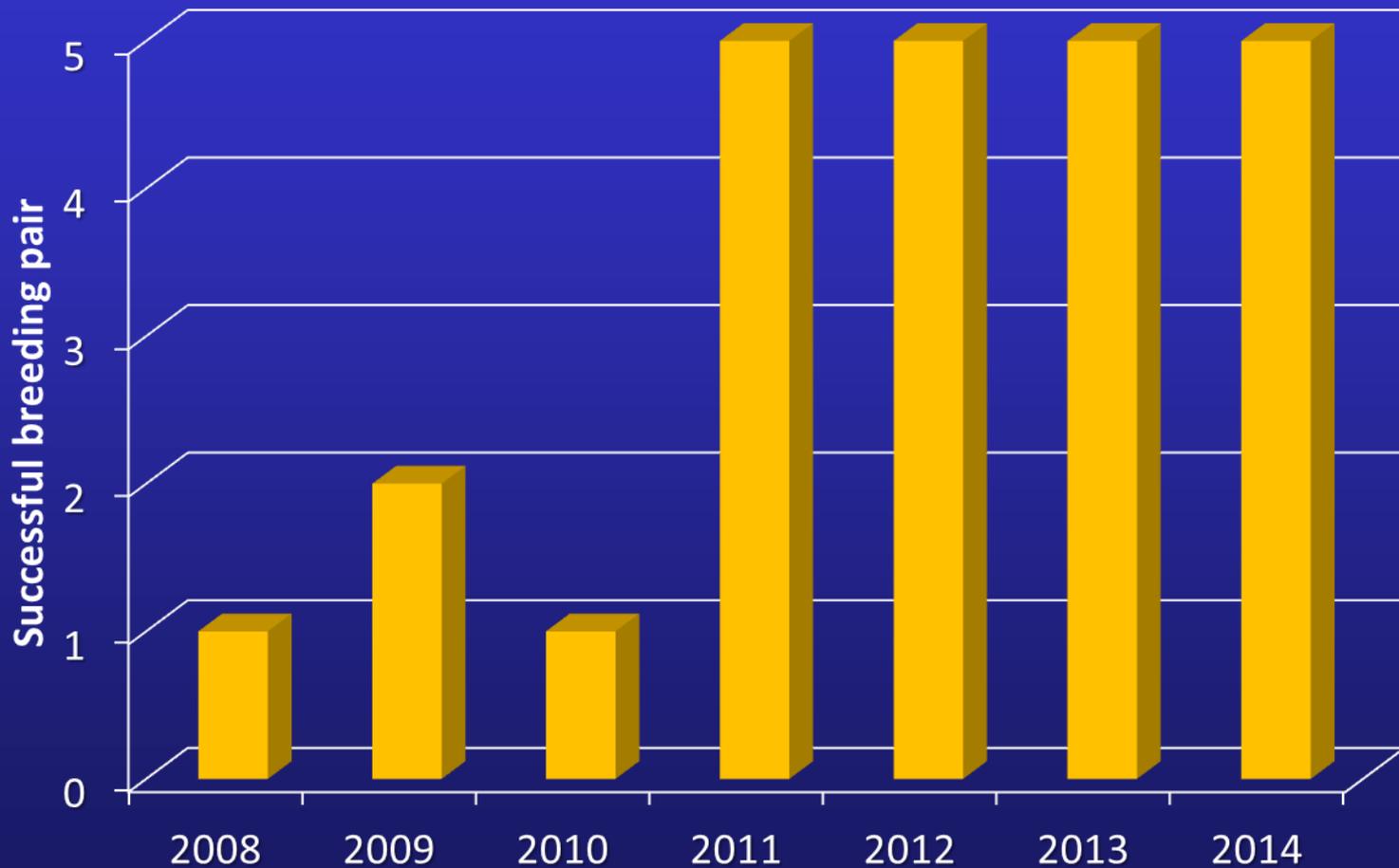
Proportion of Minimum Population Removed



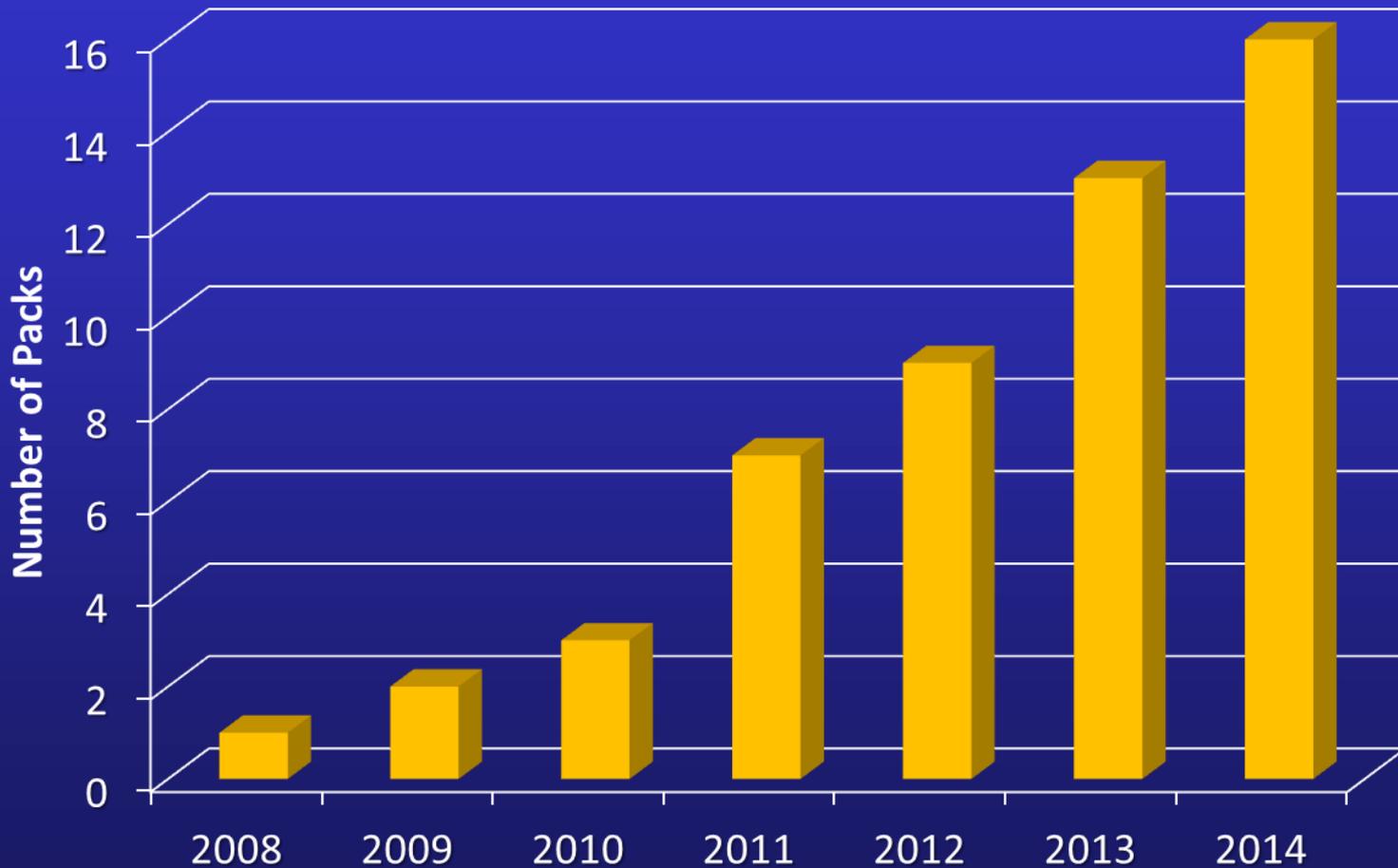
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



Summary of Wolf Recovery

- Wolves continue to steadily increase
- Wolves are also expanding their distribution

Wolf population recovery is progressing well



Conflict Management

Prevention

- Tools:
 - Fencing, fladry, range riders, collar data sharing, sanitation, noise boxes and other forms of hazing (i.e. lights)
- Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements
 - 37 agreements in 2014
 - Range rider and Sanitation
- Other
 - Contract Range Riders
 - Carcass composting sites
 - Research projects
 - Contracted outreach project



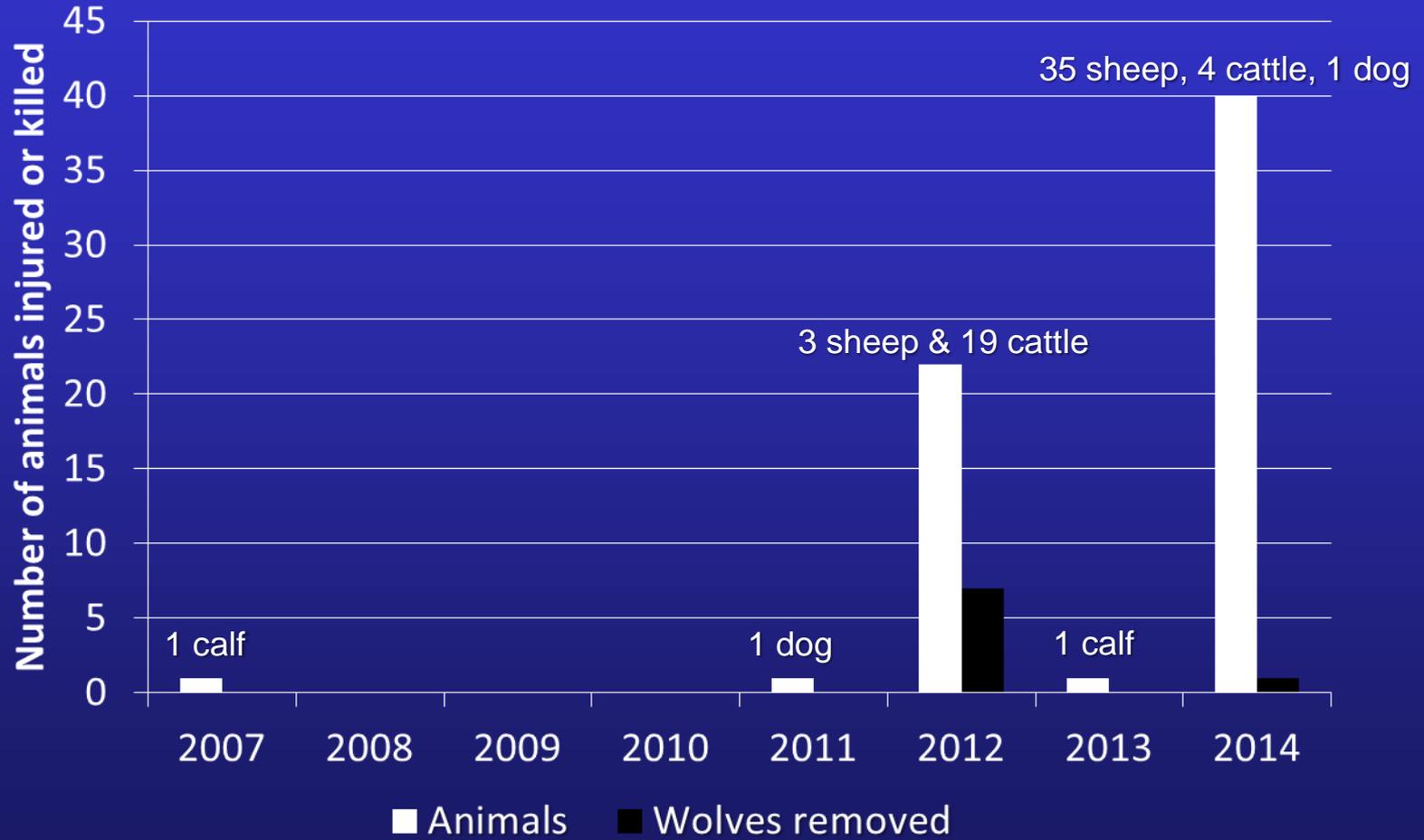
Wolf-livestock Depredations

- 32* depredation investigations
 - 7 were caused by wolf (sheep, cattle, dogs)
 - 7 were other wild carnivores (cougar and coyote)
 - 1 was unknown predator
 - 12 were unknown/undetermined cause (e.g. natural death)
 - 5 other causes:
 - Ravens/eagles (n=1)
 - Structural (n=4)

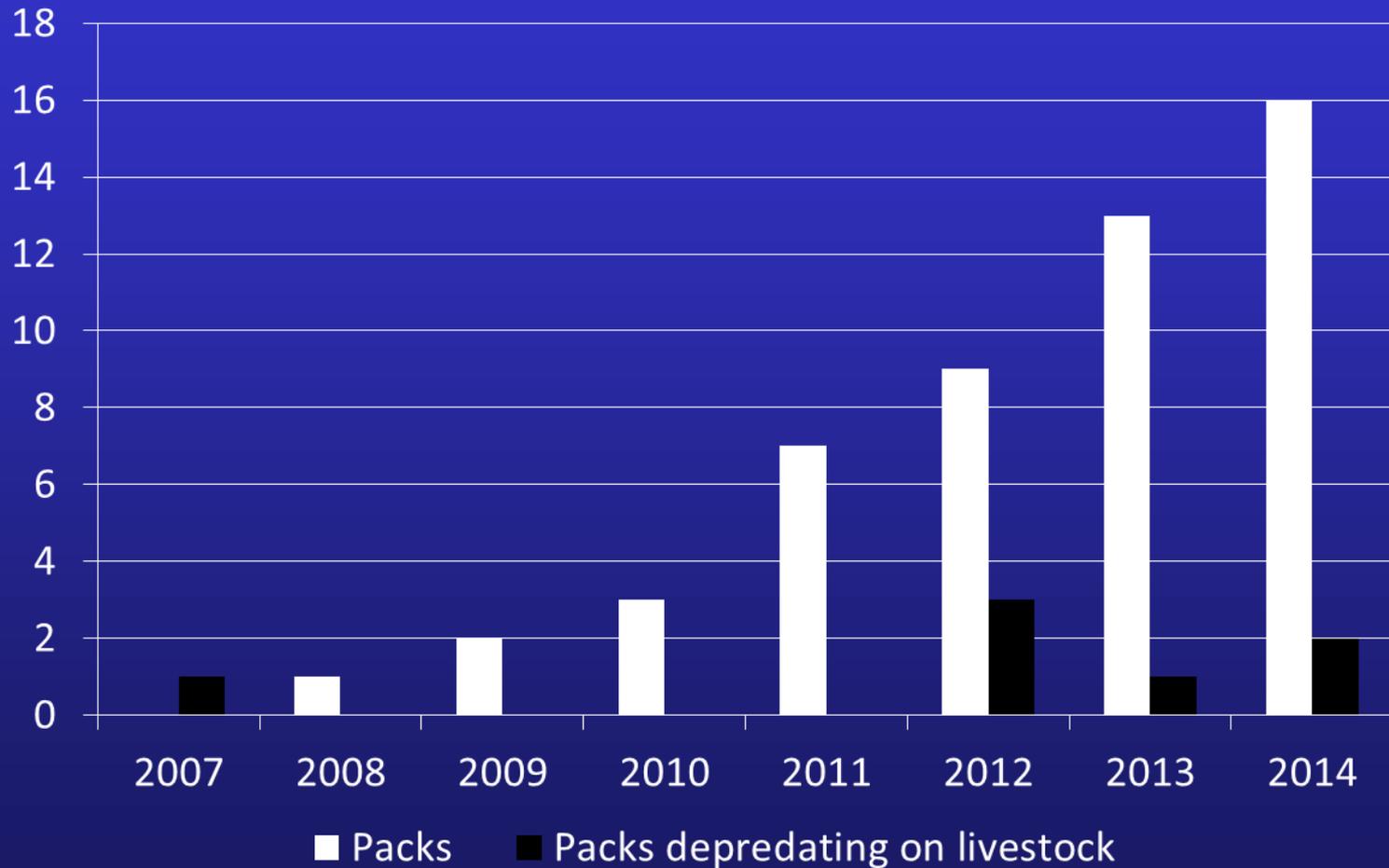
*Individual reporting parties; some reporting parties may have multiple events.



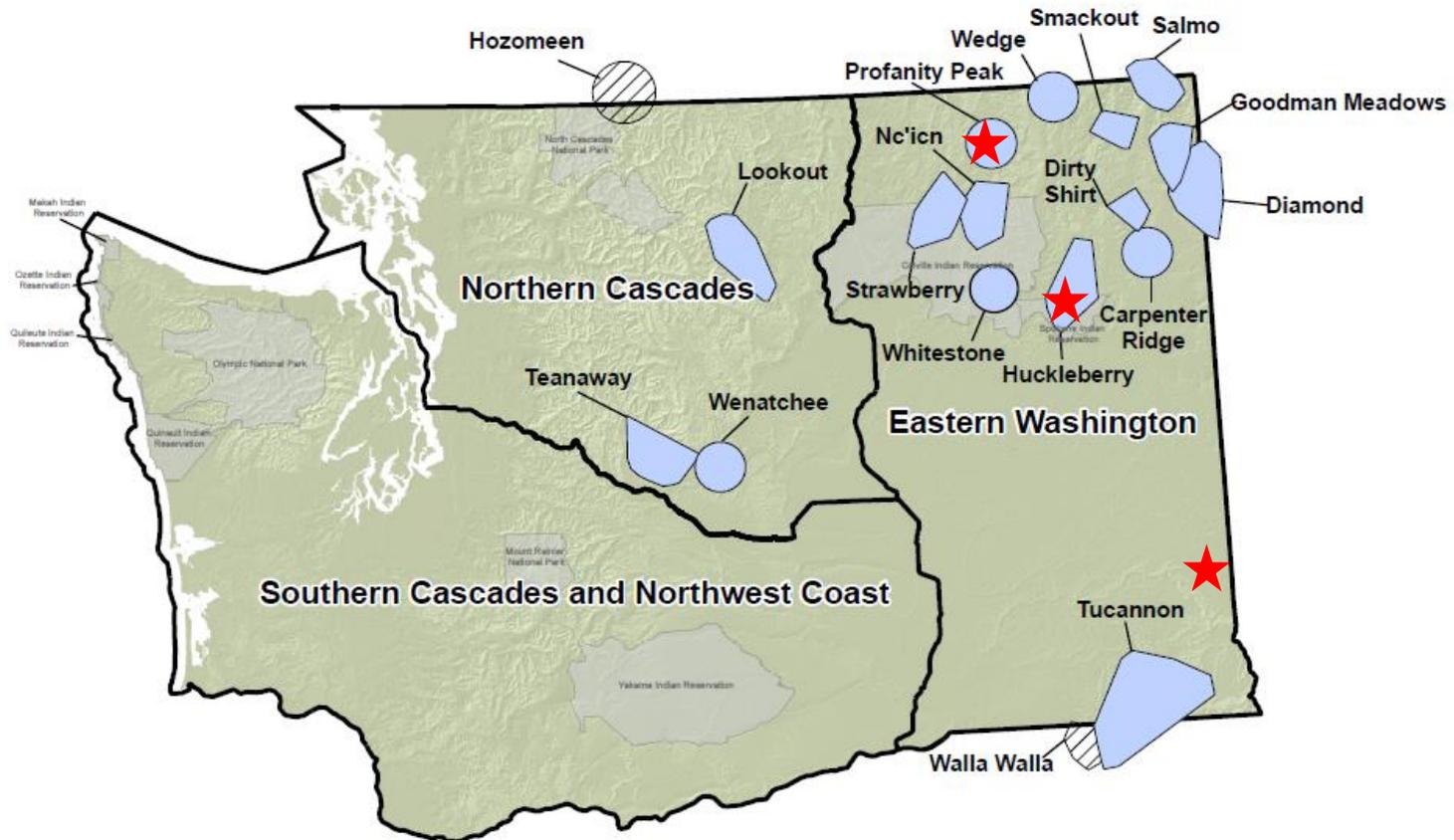
Wolf Depredations in Washington



Packs Depredating on Livestock



Packs Depredating on Livestock in 2014



Legend

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Date: 3/5/2015

Washington Wolf Population Summary

Year	Min count	Known No. Packs	SBP	Growth Rate	Known Wolf Mortality	Depredating packs (%)
2008	10	1	1	--	0	0%
2009	12	2	2	20%	0	0%
2010	19	3	1	58%	2	0%
2011	35	7	5	84%	0	0%
2012	51	9	5	46%	9	33%
2013	52	13	5	2%	5	8%
2014	68	16	5	31%	10	13%
Ave				38%		12%

Wolf Tolerance/Coexistence

Outreach

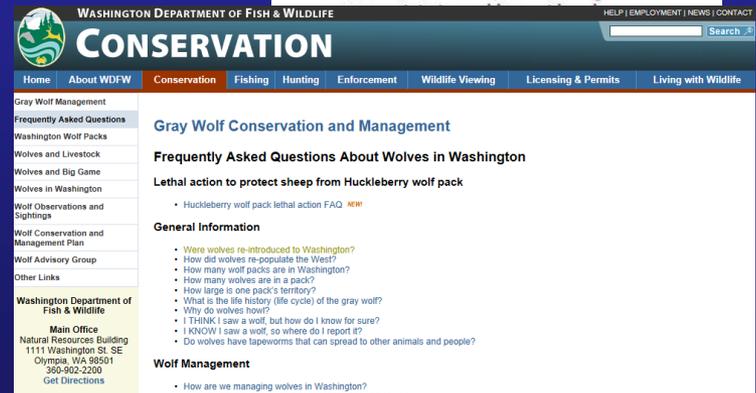
- Meetings (n>50)
 - Public, Conservation Districts, Non-government interest groups, Wolf Advisory Group, Fish and Wildlife Commission
 - Trainings: depredation and range rider
- WDFW News releases and other printed materials
 - Brochures, hunting regulations pamphlet, magnet



A Washington Guide to Addressing Wolf-Livestock Conflicts

Ranching and farming are a vital part of the state's economy, and the lands that foster this industry also provide critical habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for protecting and managing wildlife, and is committed to working with livestock producers to reduce conflicts with wildlife, including wolves.

This guide includes strategies livestock producers



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Home About WDFW Conservation Fishing Hunting Enforcement Wildlife Viewing Licensing & Permits Living with Wildlife

Gray Wolf Management

Frequently Asked Questions

Washington Wolf Packs

Wolves and Livestock

Wolves and Big Game

Wolves in Washington

Wolf Observations and Sightings

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

Wolf Advisory Group

Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Main Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
Get Directions

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Frequently Asked Questions About Wolves in Washington

Lethal action to protect sheep from Huckleberry wolf pack

- Huckleberry wolf pack lethal action FAQ **NEW**

General Information

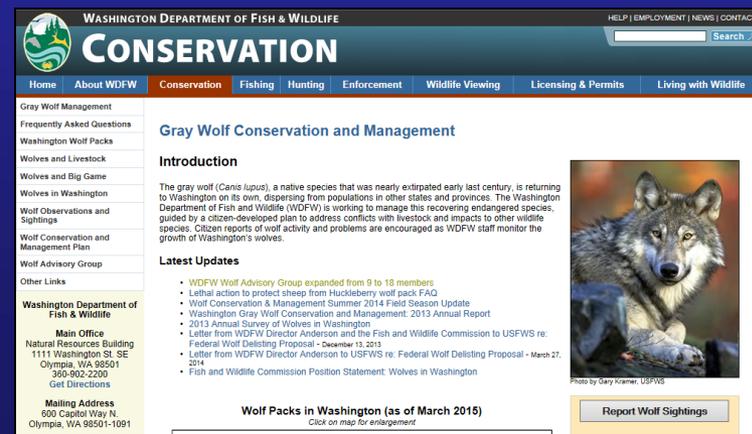
- Were wolves re-introduced to Washington?
- How did wolves re-populate the West?
- How many wolf packs are in Washington?
- How many wolves are in a pack?
- How large is one pack's territory?
- What is the life history (life cycle) of the gray wolf?
- Why do wolves howl?
- I THINK I saw a wolf, but how do I know for sure?
- I KNOW I saw a wolf, so where do I report it?
- Do wolves have tapeworms that can spread to other animals and people?

Wolf Management

- How are we managing wolves in Washington?

Outreach

- Online resources
 - WDFW web page, weekly staff reports, webinar, sighting reports, wolf conservation and management plan
- Wolf Advisory Group members and other collaborators
- Contracted with Western Wildlife Outreach and research partners



The screenshot shows the 'CONSERVATION' section of the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife website. The page title is 'Gray Wolf Conservation and Management'. It includes an 'Introduction' section with text about the gray wolf's return to Washington and a 'Latest Updates' section with several bullet points. A photo of a gray wolf is featured on the right. The footer contains contact information for the Main Office and a 'Wolf Packs in Washington (as of March 2015)' section with a map link.

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360-902-2200
Get Directions

Mailing Address
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Introduction

The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), a native species that was nearly extirpated early last century, is returning to Washington on its own, dispersing from populations in other states and provinces. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working to manage this recovering endangered species, guided by a citizen-developed plan to address conflicts with livestock and impacts to other wildlife species. Citizen reports of wolf activity and problems are encouraged as WDFW staff monitor the growth of Washington's wolves.

Latest Updates

- WDFW Wolf Advisory Group expanded from 9 to 13 members
- Lethal action to protect sheep from Huckleberry wolf pack FAQ
- Wolf Conservation & Management Summer 2014 Field Season Update
- Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management: 2013 Annual Report
- 2013 Annual Survey of Wolves in Washington
- Letter from WDFW Director Anderson and the Fish and Wildlife Commission to USFWS re: Federal Wolf Delisting Proposal - December 13, 2013
- Letter from WDFW Director Anderson to USFWS re: Federal Wolf Delisting Proposal - March 27, 2014
- Fish and Wildlife Commission Position Statement: Wolves in Washington

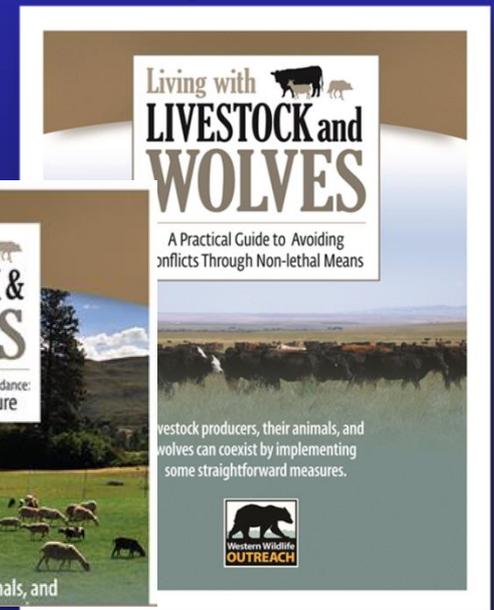
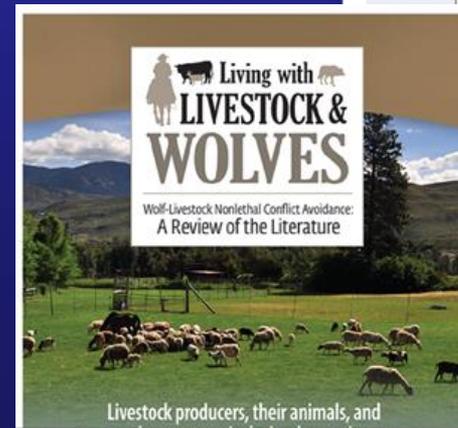
Wolf Packs in Washington (as of March 2015)

Click on map for enlargement

Report Wolf Sightings

Western Wildlife Outreach

- Develop a wolf-livestock conflict avoidance outreach program.
 - Science-based information of conflict avoidance measures
 - Wolf-livestock conflict avoidance practices
 - Multi-media approach: video, slide presentation, and a manual comprised of fact sheets
 - Collaborative effort with WSU Extension



Technical Outreach

- New approaches
 - Creating / improving composting sites
 - Fully operational at Sherman Creek
 - Other locations NE, North central, and central Washington



Wolf Advisory Group

- Mission: Allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise WDFW in implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Appointed by Director
 - 18 members
- Directive:
 - Advise implementation of wolf plan policy
 - Review board for compensation

The screenshot shows the website for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, specifically the Conservation section. The page is titled "Gray Wolf Conservation and Management" and features a "Wolf Advisory Group" section. The page includes a navigation menu, a search bar, and a sidebar with various links. The main content area contains text about the group's mission and objectives, a list of members, guidelines, and a meeting calendar.

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
CONSERVATION

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Gray Wolf Management

Wolf Advisory Group

All wildlife species present management challenges, especially wolves and other large carnivores that sometimes prey on livestock, pets, and other animals. As the state's wolf population continues to grow, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is actively working with livestock producers, hunters and others to minimize conflicts that may occur, recognizing that public acceptance is essential for wolf recovery to succeed on a statewide basis.

In 2013, WDFW created the Wolf Advisory Group to provide a broad range of perspectives to help inform this ongoing management effort. This group is tasked with recommending strategies for reducing conflicts with wolves outlined in the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Specific issues include:

- Encouraging livestock producers to take proactive, preventative measures to decrease the risk of loss.
- Providing compensation for economic loss due to wolf predation.
- Monitoring recovery of the wolf population and its effect on prey species.
- Providing information to the public on wolf recovery in Washington.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wolf Advisory Group is to allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

The main objective of the Wolf Advisory Group is to foster the development of usable and useful mechanisms for the Department to implement the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Meeting Calendar and Agendas

Date	Location	Agenda/Minutes/Documents
July 10, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda Meeting Handouts
August 15, 2013	Spokane	Agenda Meeting Handouts Audio
September 18, 2013	Olympia	Agenda Meeting Handouts Audio
October 23, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda Meeting Handouts Minutes
December 19, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda Meeting Handouts Minutes
March 20, 2014	Olympia	
May 21, 2014	Spokane	
July 24, 2014	Ellensburg	
September 25, 2014	Olympia	

Wolf Advisory Group Members

- Wolf Advisory Group Membership Roster

Guidelines

- Wolf Advisory Group Guidelines
- WDFW Operating Protocols and Guidelines for Advisory Groups

Contact Wolf Advisory Group

Dave Ware
 Game Division Manager
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 (360) 902-2509
 david.ware@dfw.wa.gov

Scientific Research

- Washington State University Large Carnivore Conservation Lab
 - Assess wolf-livestock interactions
 - Assessing preventative tools
- University of Washington
 - Human-dimensions
 - Developing a wolf economy for Washington
- WDFW Studies
 - White-tailed deer
 - Moose



Budget Available for Wolf Recovery 2013-15 Biennium

Federal	Hunting Licenses	Personalized License Plates	Orca Background Plate	Total
\$275,126	\$50,000	\$1,915,729	\$145,153	\$2,387,808

Wolf Expenditures 2013-15

Through December 2014

Activity	Federal	Wildlife Account	Personalized License Plates	Orca Plate	Total
Population Monitoring			\$553,525	\$129,892	\$683,417
Conflict Mgmt	\$920		\$203,526		\$204,446
Wildlife Srvcs			\$100,000		\$100,000
Cooperative Agreements	\$81,313		\$172,246		\$253,559
Range Rider	\$11,635		\$54,185		\$65,820
Research			\$22,839		\$22,839
Outreach			\$79,996		\$79,996
Lethal Action		\$26,671			\$26,671

Wolf Legislation 2015

- 12 Bills were introduced in 2015:
 - Regional Delisting (4)
 - Delisting in Federally delisted areas
 - Translocation
 - Killing wolves after two confirmed depredations (2)
 - Amend the wolf conservation and management plan (3)
 - Assessment of ungulate populations in areas with wolves
- 4 Bills remain today
 - Regional Delisting 5583
 - Amend the wolf plan 5960 & 2107
 - Assessment of wolf-ungulate impacts 1676

2015 Strategies

- Develop Local Conflict Deterrence Plans
- Continue one-on-one with livestock producers.
- Expand efforts to engage and work with local governments.
- Expand outreach and research projects.
- Implement conflict collaboration.



Investing in Human Dimensions Scientific Process

- Understanding Washingtonians opinions on wolf management
- Engaging stakeholders
- Understanding barriers to stakeholder progress

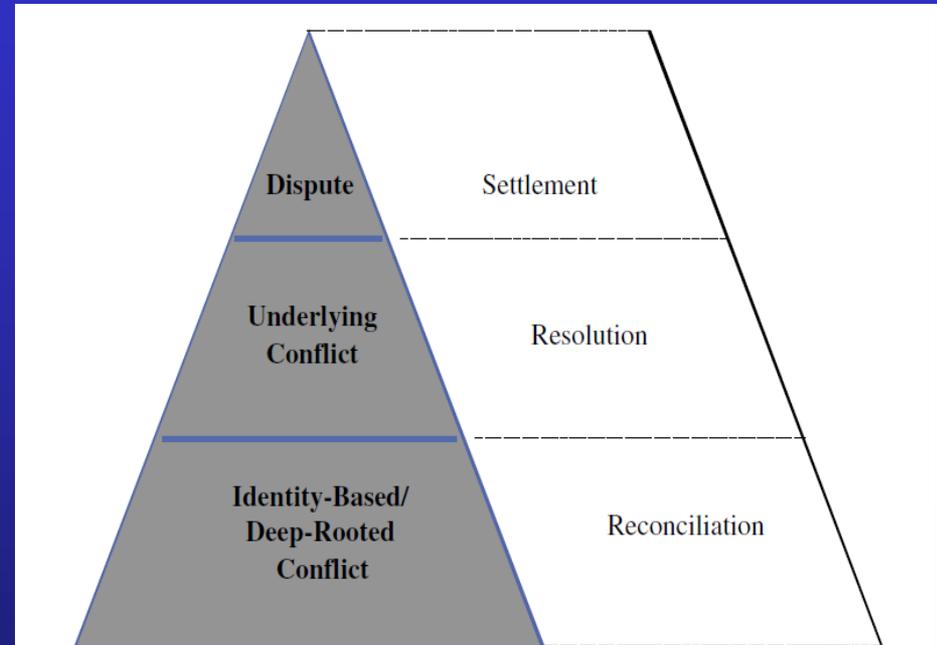


Fig. 1. The three levels of conflict that may exist in the conflict context (and the corresponding process used to address conflict at that level). Source: Adapted from [Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution \(2000, 73\)](#).

From Madden and McQinn 2014

Questions

Contact

Email: wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Phone: (360) 902-2515

S Bar R Photography 2013

